

NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2007

Indiana Law Enforcement Officers Endure the Brutal Winter Weather to Save Lives

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. – In spite of the inclement weather, law enforcement agencies participated in a statewide enforcement blitz during the first two weeks of February to save the lives of children traveling on Indiana’s roadways. Across the state, 1,352 officers put in 6,046 hours enforcing seat belt usage. During that time, 9,513 seat belt citations, and 373 child restraint citations were issued.

“The purpose of these enforcement periods is not to write tickets, but to reach parents and caregivers with the latest consumer-friendly information to help ensure that the children in their care ride in the child restraint system appropriate for their size and age,” said Mike Cunegin, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI).

“Not only did this enforcement blitz result in more than 12,000 citations, it led to the arrest of one man in Blackford County for impersonating a police officer,” Cunegin added.

Indiana law requires all children under the age of eight to be properly secured in child safety seats or booster seats. The law also requires all children up to age 16 to be properly restrained in a child restraint system or a safety belt in all seating positions in all vehicles. Those over the age of 16 must be restrained when riding in the front seat of passenger vehicles.

“Education and information are the keys to preventing unnecessary tragedies. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, state and local law enforcement agencies and a host of other partners remain committed to helping parents protect their children from injury. Nowhere is protection more critical than in transporting children in motor vehicles,” said Ryan Klitzsch, Traffic Safety division director of ICJI.

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Governor’s Council on
Impaired and Dangerous Driving



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Booster seats raise children up so that safety belts fit properly. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that children who are placed in booster seats are 59 percent less likely to be injured in a car crash than children who are restrained only by a seat belt. The Automotive Safety Program at Riley Hospital finds that one in three Indiana children are not properly restrained in their booster seats.

This public awareness campaign was sponsored by the Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving, a division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. Federal funding for the initiative was provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information about child passenger safety in Indiana, please contact the Automotive Safety Program at Riley Hospital at (800) KID-N-CAR or visit www.preventinjury.org.

The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides grant funding, training, coordination and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates.

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